



September 19, 2018 Superintendent Report

Mission: To provide a safe, comfortable, clean and caring environment where community and staff work together to provide an education that will maximize each individual's potential, instill a sense of self-worth, and prepare them for life-long learning.

2018-2019 School Year is Off to a Great Start!



The start to the 2018-2019 school year is off to a great start. This is due, in part, to the collaborative efforts of our students, staff and community members, board members, parents, and local organizations. It takes all of us working together to be prepared for a new school year. Here's a few highlights:

- Marengo Chamber of Commerce, Iowa Valley Foundation, and the Methodist Church women for providing a tasty meal for all of the staff members on August 20
- Iowa County EMS for implementing CPR/AED training to our staff in-service work
- Sheriff Rotter and Josh Humphrey for their school safety updates
- Custodians for their hard work over the summer months in making our buildings “glisten”
- Shannon Rabe for her meticulous painting skills
- All community members who donate school supplies for our students
- New trainings- iReady, new math series, Go Guardian, and new PE curriculum for grades 7-12
- Kitchen staff for providing nutritious meals for our Summer Lunch Program and Back-to-School breakfast
- Marengo Ministerial Association for a wonderful lunch during professional development days
- Bus drivers who review the routes and provide a safe trip to/from school each day
- Office workers and administrators for their organizational skills in making the transition from summer to the first day of school a smooth one
- Ashton Linnell for her meticulous work in making our school's website ADA compliant
- All staff members for creating interesting lessons, organizing their rooms, learning how to motivate students in and out of the classroom
- Parents for sharing education as a top priority to your child(ren)
- School Board members who give of their time and talents for the students and staff members of IVCS
- Students who come with a “thirst” for knowledge

Let's keep the positive Tiger spirit “roaring” all year long!

Food Service Administrative Review

The Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services uses an administrative review process through the Dept. of Education to measure compliance with the National School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. Janet Emerson, Connie Healy, Krystal Schaier, Janet Grafft and I met for our first meeting about the expectations of this review on August 15. An additional training for area schools will take place on September 5 at Williamsburg with the actual administrative review from March 5-7, 2019.

GWAEA Superintendent Meeting

Our monthly GWAEA superintendent meetings began again on September 5. Alex Kajitani, author and also known as the “The Rappin’ Mathematician,” spoke about how important relationships are to the school culture.

ESSA is Here!

ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), was signed in 2015 and replaced NCLB (No Child Left Behind). ESSA requires an accountability index to identify which school need assistance, either comprehensive or targeted. ESSA maintains a focus on equity for all students and gives local school districts more ownership over systems approaches in how to bridge achievement gaps. Some of the indicators of success are:

- Student participation on state assessments
- Proficiency in math and reading and looks at student growth
- Graduation rate
- Progress in achieving English language proficiency
- Average scale score- looks at average performance in reading and math
- Conditions for learning based on student surveys in the areas of school safety, engagement, and environment
- Postsecondary readiness

Alison West, from GWAEA, visited with Cindy Miller, Janet Behrens, Patty Miles, and me on August 14 to discuss mandatory trainings as well as universal tier trainings based on Iowa Assessment scores for our district.

Administrative Team Meetings

The administrative team will be meeting on the fourth Tuesday of every month, except December. One book study we will be doing is based on David Ross’ book entitled *Teammate: My Journey in Baseball and a World Series for the Ages*. Ross shares what it means to be a teammate, based on his career with the Cubs. Our new regional administrator this year is Tina Hoffman.

Top Four Legislative Priorities for the Iowa Valley Community School District

Each school year, the IVCSD School Board determines legislative priorities for the IASB (Iowa Association of School Boards). These priorities are then shared with IASB and discussed during the Delegate Assembly at the IASB Convention in November. This protocol has served as an effective means of sharing top educational needs before the legislative session begins in January. Our delegate is Dale Slaymaker, the IVCSD School Board President. The following are the IVCSD priorities:

1. Maintain SAVE (Secure an Advanced Vision for Education), formerly called the local option sales and service tax. It provides a flexible funding stream for items such as technology, school safety updates, new buildings/additions, etc.
2. SSA (State Supplemental Aid) increases should be implemented. SSA is the building block for financing Iowa school districts which is based on enrollment and adjusted annually.
3. Special education services should be reviewed to reduce the achievement gap between the non-IEP and IEP students.
4. Standards and Accountability should be maintained to ensure career/workplace readiness.



New Staff Members

Elementary staff:

Heather Schumacher- Part-time Custodian

Jr./Sr. High staff:

Janet Behrens- Jr./Sr. HS Principal and Head Girls Basketball Coach

Abby Gard- HS Science and FB/BB Cheerleading Coach

Mike Healy- JH Boys Basketball Coach

Ellen Young- Asst. Girls Basketball Coach

Shared staff:

Lauren Ewing- K-12 Art and JH Girls Basketball Coach

Keith Reynolds- 5-12 Band and At-Risk

Same Face/Different Place:

Stacie Christner- At-Risk

Ross Karsten- JH Boys Basketball Coach

Tom Megchelsen- TLC Model Teacher

Mindi Slaymaker- Football Cheer Coach

Special Summer Projects



New bench and donation board, both built by Rich Cobb, located in the Elementary. The bench is in the fitness room and made from the old bleachers at the Jr./Sr. High School.



Preschool updates- new counter tops, sinks, faucets, installation of hot water, painting, and carpet/tile



New sideline and outfield fencing and gates at the softball field

Art room updates thanks to our custodians and Lauren Ewing, our new art instructor

